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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Frank Roman Pitol of Collinsville, who passed away on August 22, 2009; and

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WHEREAS, Frank Roman Pitol was born on November 10, 1929, in Collinsville; his teaching and coaching career began in 1954 in Mascoutah, at the junior high and elementary schools; he retired from the Collinsville Unit 10 School District in 1992; and

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WHEREAS, From 1943-1947 he attended Collinsville Township High School (now Collinsville High School), where he lettered in football, baseball, and basketball; after graduation he attended Eastern Illinois University from 1947-1951, where he received his Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education and a Master of Arts degree in Secondary Education and excelled in athletics as a member of the football, basketball, and track teams; he was selected to try out for the Los Angeles Rams pro football team but was simultaneously drafted into the army during the Korean Conflict; and

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WHEREAS, He later returned to school and earned a second Master of Arts degree in Secondary School Administration from Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville; and married his

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1 college sweetheart, Patricia Jane Stanley, on June 12, 1954 in
2 Grayville; and

3 WHEREAS, He was baptized in the United Church of Christ in
4 Mascoutah on December 25, 1954; he was a member of the
5 Collinsville History Museum Board, and he was instrumental in
6 the creation of the new museum building; he was a member of the
7 American Legion Post 365 and of the Illinois Retired Teachers
8 Association; while in Mascoutah he was a member of the Lions
9 Club and served as their president for one year; and

10 WHEREAS, He was a founder and organizer of the Holiday
11 Basketball Tournament in Collinsville, which began in 1984; he
12 authored *The Wonderful World of Collinsville Basketball*, a
13 complete history of Collinsville High School basketball from
14 1907 to 1976; he and his son, Scott, created and maintained the
15 complementary website www.ballpress.com, which provides
16 history and current information about Kahok basketball; and

17 WHEREAS, In addition, he received numerous awards and
18 recognition for his dedication to high school athletics; he was
19 named Illinois Athletic Director of the Year in 1987 and 1990;
20 he was inducted into the Illinois Athletic Director's
21 Association Hall of Fame in 1993; he was also inducted as a
22 Friend into the Illinois Basketball Coaches' Hall of Fame; he
23 was inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame at Eastern Illinois

1 University; and

2 WHEREAS, He was preceded in death by his father and mother,
3 Roman and Anna Pitol, nee Bursich; his wife of 52 years,
4 Patricia (nee Stanley); his infant sister, Albina Pitol; his
5 brother-in-law, Clarence Obernuefemann; and his sister-in-law,
6 Edna Stanley; and

7 WHEREAS, Frank Roman Pitol is survived by his sons, Stanley
8 Pitol and Scott Pitol (wife Christy); his daughter, Susan Pitol
9 Stucco (husband Guido); his grandson, Aurelio Stucco; his three
10 step-grandchildren, Giuliana Stucco, Michela Stucco, and
11 Vittorio Stucco; his sister, Elsie Obernuefemann; his
12 brother-in-law, Palmer Stanley; his numerous cousins, nieces,
13 nephews, and the many friends, coaches, and students who were
14 touched by his life and who loved and appreciated him;
15 therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL
17 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with
18 his family and friends, the passing of Frank Pitol; and be it
19 further

20 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
21 presented to the family of Frank Pitol as a symbol of our
22 sincere sympathy.